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## VERDUN ATTACK A FAILURE?

Paris is not overconfident, but it seems to be convinced that the German attack on Verdun is a failure. Even if Verdun yet shall fall, it will be at such a terrific cost in men, material, and German confidence that it will not be worth the candle. Moreover, the military value of the gains has been for the greater part negated by the delay of a month. To take Verdun in the first ten days of the assault might have meant the opportunity of rolling back the allied line and reaching Paris. Now it means only the straightening out of the line and the occupation of a small territory.

Yet it is not to be assumed too readily that the Verdun campaign has been wholly a failure. The projection of it in winter must have been determined upon as a means to gain time; to force issues before the allies could be fully prepared. The Russians were getting ready for a big offensive in the Riga region, and farther south; the French and British were constantly strengthening themselves in the west. To wait for spring, for good weather and better transport, meant to give them further advantage. The Germans were able, as they believed, to undertake a winter campaign on better terms than their enemies. The advantage might have been dissipated by spring; so they moved at once.

The result is that they have compelled the Russians to open their great offensive in winter, under conditions that impose much greater hardship than a winter campaign on better terms than their enemies. The advantage might have been dissipated by spring; so they moved at once.

It is more than ever evident that Germany feels the necessity of rushing matters in this war; more than ever apparent, too, that her enemies are willing to be leisurely. The latter know that time fights on their side. The more time they can take, the more men they will save, the more their assurance of winning at last through the superiority of their economic resources and the length of their purse. It is a slow process, this of wearing down the interior empires by the force of a blockade that can never be perfect; but it is producing results, and will produce more of them as the months pass.

The big gray ironclads, scattered from Kirkwall to Constantinople, are winning the war for the allies without firing a shot. The longer that process can be continued the stronger will be the allies, the weaker the central powers. Conversely, the sooner and harder the Germans hit, the greater their chance for success. That may be the explanation of Verdun, and it may be the justification for taking what seems like a defeat, yet may prove to have been worth while.

## AS TO CALLING THE MILITIA

There are differences of opinion whether there is need to call out the militia and mobilize it for service on the Mexican border, or in Mexico, in case need may arise. The understanding is that the military authorities believe the call should be issued and the mobilization proceed, while the Administration opposes such a move at this time.

On general principles, the Administration should be expected to have the best information available. But in the past its judgments about Mexico have not been above criticism; and in the present instance there is room for disagreement with its judgment.

Whether the Mexican situation makes it desirable to have the militia ready for service there, it certainly is a fact that the cost of mobilizing the National Guard would be an investment in experience, preparedness, and detailed information about our means of defense, that would be worth while. People have not forgotten what a horror was the mobilization of the National Guard, State by State, in 1898. The present National Guard is practically a different body. Few either of officers or of men who were serving at that time are in the guard ranks now. The experience of a mobilization would be of inestimable value.

Since 1898 the National Guard has been much improved under the operation of new and more intelligent law. Many of the embarrassments of the Spanish war epoch would not be repeated now. Careful projects have been formulated for the quick and safe moving of the bodies of State troops, and it would be worth a great deal to have these tested out. Perhaps things would be

learned that within the next year would be of absolutely vital importance to the country.

Gentlemen who are confident that the National Guard, added to an army of far less than 200,000, is all the defense the country needs on land, ought certainly to be in favor of measures that would demonstrate the efficiency of the guard, and prepare it for the quickest and best service. It would cost some millions of money to mobilize the guard; but it would be money well spent even if no man in its uniform ever saw the Mexican border.

## APPOINTING A POLICE JUDGE

The judges of the Police Court of the District of Columbia possess a discretion and jurisdiction that makes it much more important here than in most towns that the right kind of men be named for this bench.

The Police Court bench has exclusive jurisdiction in matters that involve police regulations. There is no appeal so far as the District government is concerned, though the defendant can appeal. If the Police Court chooses to hold any police regulation unreasonable or unconstitutional, that ends it.

Judges of this court are appointed for a six-year term, at a salary of \$3,600 annually. He appointment is thus one of the most desirable under the District administration.

Early next month the term of Judge James L. Pugh of this bench, will expire. Judge Pugh is a candidate for reappointment, having served one term.

There is persistent rumor of opposition to Judge Pugh's reappointment in high quarters; and it is common knowledge that, whatever the merits of the case, there is widespread opposition among the people of the town. Perhaps if Judge Pugh's supporters could be lined up, it would be found that he has enough of them to warrant his reappointment. Perhaps, too, if all the stories that circulate concerning his conduct of his office were investigated, it would be found that there is no justification for the antagonism to his reappointment.

But the fact stands that Judge Pugh has not been a popular police magistrate. The importance of his position is such that there ought to be the most positive disproof of the things that his opponents say about his administration at the Police Court, before he is named for another term. These things may be utterly without justification; The Times hopes that they are; but it certainly believes that in all the circumstances Judge Pugh ought not to be reappointed until every uncertainty is removed.

A public official occupies a relation very different, when he is a candidate for reappointment, than a private citizen under investigation. The presumption is that a citizen is innocent until he is proved guilty. In the case of an official, virtue must be as that of Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Unless Judge Pugh has been done persistent injustice by the large and miscellaneous body of his critics, he ought not to be reappointed.

## GOVERNMENT-MADE ARMOR

Beyond doubt the American people have no more objection to a Government armor plant than to a Government navy yard. They don't object, other things being equal, to the Government building battleships; they will not object, other things being equal, to the Government making armor plate for a battleship.

But, in the matter both of war vessels built by the Government and of armor plate made by the Government, a very important thing to consider—a thing which may become vital to the safety of the nation—is, will the Government, can the Government, maintain itself in a position to be able to build all the ships and turn out all the armor plate that may be needed under any and all circumstances?

Nobody believes so. The Government would never think of maintaining enough shipyards to turn out all the ships that might be needed. It would never think of maintaining a sufficient armor plant to turn out all the armor that might be needed. If the Government would consider doing anything like that it would be bad business; it would be crazy business.

But the Government can build battleships, as it does now, and it can make armor plate, at it is going to do, without forcing or causing private shipbuilding plants or private steel plants to go out of the business of building warships or of making armor. If they can do the work on even terms it will be a wise measure of preparedness for the Government to give them enough business to warrant them in keeping their plants in such condition that at a time of great emergency, at a moment of national peril, they could be called upon to work for the Government at their utmost capacity; could be called upon and could respond instantly.

Our Government is never ready to do anything in a pinch. If all private machinery essential to doing work for the Government should be dismantled or abandoned in time of peace, the United States Govern-

ment, as we unhappily manage such things, would surely blow up in the case of war when there were no private shipyards, nor private steel plants, nor private munition factories, nor private powder mills, to help drag it out of its always habitual, incurable, appalling unpreparedness.

## THE SHACKLETON POLAR EXPEDITION

When the Antarctic expedition headed by Sir Ernest Shackleton sailed in September, 1914, it attracted less attention throughout the world by reason of the absorption of interest in the events of the war. But the expedition was probably the most completely equipped that had ever undertaken a great polar operation. It expected to make a real topographic examination of the Antarctic continent, and if possible to travel entirely across it, a distance of 1,700 miles. Without doubt one reason for this ambitious program was the British desire to establish, so far as possible, by right of exploration, a claim to the region.

The first word from the Shackleton expedition is suggestion of misfortune if not disaster. Of Shackleton himself, and his party working on the exploration operations, nothing has been received; but communication has been established with his auxiliary ship, the Aurora, indicating that she is proceeding, badly injured by crushing in the ice pack, to New Zealand. Part of her company has been left ashore, and the fate of these men is uncertain.

This first news from the Shackleton expedition is not reassuring; but it does not by any means foreshadow a report of general disaster. The members of this particular polar party will be quite as anxious to receive news from the world, as the world will be to learn what has happened to them. When the party lost communication with civilization, the great war was just fairly getting into its swing. Few people then believed it would still be in progress at the present date; yet, after almost two years in which it has been marked by fighting that dwarfs in insignificance all the conflicts of other wars, it is seemingly no nearer an issue than when it was three weeks old. The world has moved strenuously, if not far since the Shackleton party left it.

On Wednesday night, while the steamship Maturra, of the Trinidad line, which brought the Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt to New York from Trinidad, was under way, the ship was overtaken by a monster wave flooded the main deck and companionway and several barrels of sea water into the Roosevelt stateroom. At 1 o'clock in the morning the colonel got out of his berth, seized a pall, and baled out the water.

By agreement between the traveler and his friends here there was nothing in the way of a reception, when the Maturra arrived.

## Looks Fit for Fight.

Colonel Roosevelt was chumming with his fourteen fellow passengers in the main dining saloon of the Maturra off Quarantine when a boatful of reporters and photographers was spilled into his presence. His face was tanned and he looked fit for a bruising fight, at Chicago or elsewhere. He dictated this statement not once:

"I call your especial attention to what I said as to the furnishing of arms and munitions to one set of bandits instead of helping Uncle Sam against all the other set. I am at least sure that what I therein said as to the effect of adherence to the policy of refusal to furnish arms to the belligerents."

"What I said in that volume," here the colonel lifted his right forefinger and stuffed his left hand with it—"needs no elaboration now, and exactly applies."

## Tells of His Voyage.

Turning to his experiences of the voyage he went on:

"I have greatly enjoyed my trip through the West Indies, and I am more impressed than ever with those islands and with Demerara as tourist resorts and with their industrial future. I wish to express my deep appreciation of the courtesy and hospitality with which the officials and the private citizens in the French, English, and Danish islands received me. I was immensely struck by the enthusiasm with which the people of the French and English islands have come forward to aid of the mother countries in this war. The islands have sent to the front or have in training to send to the front between 20,000 and 30,000 men."

"In my house where I was a guest practically all of the young men had gone to the front or were going. That is all. You mustn't ask me any questions about politics," the colonel concluded.

He then described the bewildered look on the face of the hotelier when he said: "And it cats nuts," he said. "It flies among the trees at night and eats both the palm and the betel nut? What do you think of that?"

"And barks like a dog, colonel," suggested one of the interviewers.

"I must deprecate any nature faking," he retorted. "But it does make the wildest noise; you ought to hear it. The natives call it 'the little devil'."

"It was a pleasure to hear the howl the colonel, in order to reach the caves where dwells the guacharo, in peace with tropical bats, had to travel through the interior of Trinidad and spend the night in one of the caves. His two companions carried hammocks, but the colonel doesn't like to sleep in a hammock. So the party carried a table from a farmhouse to the cave."

## To See Editors Today.

Colonel Roosevelt expects to visit the offices of the Metropolitan and of Scribner's Magazine today. It is likely that William Hamlin Childs and Horace Wilkinson, the Progressive leader of Syracuse, will visit him today, along with George W. Perkins. The colonel said that so far as he knew there would be no visitors at Oyster Bay tomorrow.

He intimated that as soon as he got his land bearings he might have something political to say, but for the present he is unwilling to elucidate his statement called to this city on March 2 in which he said that he would not enter any fight for a nomination, and that "it would be a mistake to nominate me unless the country has in its mind something of the heroic."

## ROOSEVELT TO HOME, SAYS HE EXPECTED MEXICAN TROUBLE

Asserts Recent Developments Have Borne Out Every One of His Prophecies.

## HE SAW WHISKERED BIRD

Description of Guacharo Something Like the Killifool, But It's Really True.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Colonel Roosevelt got home last night from his six weeks' tour of the British and Danish West Indies silent for the time being—as to Presidential politics, but with an emphatic avowal that exactly what he prophesied has come to pass in Mexico.

In Trinidad he discovered a feathered creature, the guacharo, of whose reality there can be no doubt, although his description of it sounds like that of the killifool bird of modern mythology. It is the size of a barn owl, has whiskers like a whippoorwill, lives in caves, flies only at night, and eats nuts. Incidentally, the colonel isn't going to the prize fight.

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## "OPPOSING BEST TIME TO STRIKE U. S. NOW"

Japan Society Bulletin Deprecates Agitation to Stir Up Trouble for America.

"If Japan fails to strike now, what will be the occupation of the prophetic in future years?" asks an editorial in Bulletin No. 23, of the Japan Society, of New York, referring to the predictions of former Congressman Hobson and others that there is danger of a Japanese invasion.

The Bulletin asserts that never before has there been such a vigorous and active effort to create hostility between the two countries, Japan and the United States, and that this agitation comes from these three sources:

American editors and writers living in China, whose aim is to disturb the relations between Japan and this country. German publicity agents and writers. Preparedness orators who point out Japan as ready to strike.

Agitation Is Deprecated.

Deprecating such agitation, the editorial continues:

"If Japan is ever to make war on the United States, as many from Hobson and Homer Lee down have for years prophesied, now is the opportune time. In England, Germany are in mortal combat, China is weakened, the Panama Canal is closed, the United States is unprepared, and Japan's army is fully equipped. If she fails to strike now, what will be the occupation of the prophetic in future years?"

The Bulletin concludes by saying that the United States should be prepared for the possibility of a Japanese invasion, but that it should not be agitated by the predictions of the prophets of doom.

## Asia for Asiatics.

"Is not the restoration of order and the development of China a yellow man's burden rather than a white man's?" It is safe to say that the vast majority of Americans acquiesce in the doctrine of "Asia for the Asiatics," and recognizing that Japan has been excluded from the United States, Canada, and Australia, admit that she is at least entitled to work out her own destiny on her own hemisphere.

The publication of the Japan Society shows that its president, August Belmont, and its vice president, August Belmont, and its secretary, August Belmont, are all in favor of the doctrine of "Asia for the Asiatics."

## Y. W. C. Secretary

Resigns Position

Miss Mary A. Finney Will Return to Former Home in Michigan.

Miss Mary Alice Finney, religious work secretary of the Washington Y. W. C. A., has submitted her resignation to the board of directors, and will become effective early in the summer.

Miss Finney is a graduate of the National Training School in New York city. She came to Washington as her first field endeavor, and at its close this summer will return to Detroit, where her home is.

Her work for the Washington association has included direction of spiritual reading and Bible study.

Member of the spiritual chapter, who has been closely associated with Miss Finney in her work here, remarked in commenting upon her resignation:

"She brought to the association a very fine atmosphere, and helped in a remarkable way to clarify the spiritual life of many of our members. Her personal life, her humor and brightness, and sense of uplift, she gave to all who came in contact with her. A consciousness of what the normal Christian life really means."

Funeral services for Catherine Agnes, wife of John Brosnan, president and founder of the Provident Relief Association, who died yesterday at her home, 717 T street northwest, aged sixty years, will be held Monday at 2 o'clock at St. Martin's Church, where requiem mass will be celebrated. She is survived by her husband and the following children: John Brosnan, 14 years; William Brosnan, 12 years; Charles S. Vernon, Mrs. John J. McCarthy, Miss Nellie Brosnan and Miss Julia Brosnan.

Mrs. Johanna Foley.

Funeral services for Mrs. Johanna Foley, who died Thursday, will be held at the residence, 58 Q street northwest, Monday at 2 o'clock, and at St. Martin's Church, where requiem mass will be celebrated at 10 o'clock. Interment will be made in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Louise Foster.

Funeral services for Mrs. Louise Foster, who died Thursday, will be held at the residence of her son, 146 Thomas street northwest, Monday at 2 o'clock.

Miss Blanche Johnson.

Funeral services for Miss Blanche Johnson, who died Thursday at the family residence, 427 V street northwest, will be held at the Third Baptist Church tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

Aime Barbrin Marsh.

Funeral services for Aime Barbrin Marsh, who died Thursday at her home, 146 Thomas street northwest, will be held at St. Peter's Church tomorrow at 2:30 o'clock.

Mrs. Florence Taylor.

Funeral services for Mrs. Florence O. Taylor, who died Thursday at the residence, 1460 Church street northwest, will be held at the Vermont Avenue Church tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

Confederate Daughters

To Meet Monday Night

The District of Columbia division of the Daughters of the Confederacy will hold its annual historical evening Monday at 8 p. m. in the Metropolitan Hall, 1222 Vermont avenue northwest.

Because of the absence from the city of the historical general, Miss Mildred Rutherford, her address will be read by Mrs. Wallis Streator, local historian. Southern songs will be sung by the Confederate Daughters, their under the direction of Mrs. Charles H. Ford. All Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of the Confederacy, Veterans and the general public are invited to attend.

## SHERIFF MEASURE COMES UP TUESDAY

Susan B. Anthony Amendment, Named Cook Robin, Raising Post-mortem Hubbub.

So far as Mother Goose relates, the original Cock Robin staged no come-back. Once dead, he remained decently in that condition. Men and women friends made no effort to bring him back; nor did they pester the official graveyard custodians.

But the world has moved since Mother Goose lived, and the Cock Robin under present discussion, though officially dead, is raising a considerable post-mortem hubbub and may be brought back to life with a bang in Congress next Tuesday.

The present Cock Robin is the once-called Susan B. Anthony suffrage amendment, rechristened Cock Robin by Congressman Carlin of Virginia. The graveyard attendants—tried and true, if nervous—are the members of the subcommittee, and the post-mortem, would-be revivers are the battling suffragists.

The trouble all started when Carlin walked out of a subcommittee hearing was to have reported the resolution to the whole committee, and announced: "Well, we've killed Cock Robin."

Found Many Excuses.

He meant that the subcommittee had determined not to report the measure to the full committee, where one of those eyes-and-no votes would have to be taken.

However, here enter the lady revivers—the suffragists. They found that the resolution had been referred to the subcommittee while four of their friends in the committee were away and they began a campaign for votes to bring that measure back before the whole committee. They found a deplorable amount of ill-health, previous engagements, promises to friends, official business out of the city, and sickness in the family among the Congressmen—all of which conspired to keep them away from committee meetings they would like to attend.

And so: "Good morning, Congressman," smiles a good looking young woman. "How are you this morning?" "Never better," beams Mr. Congressman.

"Not sick at all?" "Do I look it?" "Your family in good health?" "Yes, yes, indeed."

"You don't expect to be called out of the city?" "No."

"Well, I'm so glad to know this. The committee has a single reason then, can't they, why you should not be able to vote tomorrow to bring Cock Robin before the whole committee?"

Some Not Afraid to Vote.

"No, and I ain't scared to stay and vote, neither," answer some.

"When," say others, after their secretaries have rescued them from painfully obvious stalling, and the lady friend has left.

So far, H. B. Moss, of West Virginia, has been called from a sick bed to vote. He has a cold, but he is a member of just one official business-out-of-town party another, and Graham, of New York, has developed a memory.

At even closer to the ladies he was for at least one more lease of life for Cock Robin; but when morning dawned he agreed to an agreement made previously with other members, not to force fellow Congressmen to vote either on prohibition or suffrage this session. So, but in a matter of honor or what can a man do?

Williams, of Illinois, remembered for a while that it would be decided either by a vote or by a majority of members if they had to vote yes or no. The suffragists finally brought him around.

So there is a new Robin in the world, dead, perhaps simply in suspended animation and with the pulmotor squad manning the oxygen pump; the grave-diggers and attendants murmuring something about ghouls; and the resourcefulness of Congressional minds being taxed to do it. Next Tuesday will tell Cock Robin's tale.

FUNERAL RITES FOR CAPITAL RESIDENTS

Hours and Places of Service Arranged by Bereaved Families.

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## DANCE DANCE DANCE

ORIENTAL THEME OF PASSION AND BLOOD

Ballet Russe Realizes to Fullest Extent Possibilities of Arabian Nights Tale.

## "PRINCE IGOR" A TUMULT

Embodies Spirit of Dance in Primitive Form—Spirit of Archaic Greece Realized.

It was to the blue-green Bakat setting of "Scheherazade" that last night's audience at the National Theater was first introduced.

The Ballet Russe realized to the fullest extent the sensational possibilities of the Arabian Nights story. "The dancing pantomime is a typical Oriental theme of passion and bloodshed. Shariar, King of India and China, has been led to doubt the fidelity of Zobeide, his favorite sultana. Accordingly, he departs upon a pretended hunting trip.

No sooner is he gone than the women of the harem persuade the chief eunuch to unlock the slaves, and a wild revel follows. When the dancing wildcat, the King returns to see, in the midst of the abandoned crowd, Zobeide with one of the slaves.

Revenge Follows Swiftly.

Revenge follows swiftly. Men of the retinue pursue and kill the faithless ones, and the sultana herself beside her dead lover.

Throughout the episode the seductive grace of Zobeide, played by Flora Ralva, and the leaping abandon of her favorite, Adolf Bolm, accented the emotion depicted to a lesser degree by the others.

Nothing could have presented a stronger contrast to the epic intensity of "Scheherazade" than the lyric mood of the ballet that followed, "The Sylphides." Clad in white, fluffly-skirted gowns with prim bodices, fresh pink slippers giving the only color to the white, the Sylphides, the incarnation of the spirit of Chopin.

With members of the corps de ballet as an effective background, and several of the premier dancers interpreted the various compositions chosen. Of these, Mlle. Lydia Lopokova was not a notable exception. Her dancing was entirely in accord with her quaint, serious little face. Mlle. Lopokova, Mlle. Alexandra Gavrilova were the remaining soloists.

A Series of Poses.

In presenting "L'Après Midi d'un Faune," essentially a series of poses rather than a dance, the members of the ballet achieved something of the spirit of archaic Greece. The angular lines of the nymphs, who strayed through the woods, the last of the astonished faun surely found their inspiration in the decorations of antique vases.

Ronald Massine, the faun, succeeded in depicting the brutish creature of the woods in a way that suggested not the slightest veneer of civilization.

"Prince Igor" was the last of the four ballets, and really an episode from Borodin's new opera, which but recently had its New York premiere. Introduced by wild music, essentially of the scene resolves itself into a tumult embodying the spirit of the dance in its most primitive form.

A Marvelous Chaos.

The dance of the archers was a marvelous chaos of leaping bodies and straining sinews. In this, too, the grotesque yet wholly artistic dancing of Adolf Bolm was the outstanding feature. The barbaric riot of the finale was a tremendous climax to the program.

The final performance of the Ballet Russe will take place tonight. The bill will include the following ballets: "The Sylphides," "The Faun," "The Prince Igor," "The Arabian Nights," "The Sylphides," "The Faun," "The Prince Igor," "The Arabian Nights," "The Sylphides," "The Faun," "The Prince Igor," "The Arabian Nights," "The Sylphides," "The Fa